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REMARKS

This is a response to the Office Action mailed on 20 January 2006. Claims 1 – 21 were subject to a restriction requirement. Claims 2 – 6, 10 – 17 and 19 – 21 have been withdrawn. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 1, 7 – 9 and 18 remain for consideration

Claim rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Examiner rejected claims 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> ¶ for allegedly failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter Applicants regard as the invention. In response, Applicants have amended claim 1 to make it clearer that the material being removed is being removed from a surface of the substrate.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Examiner rejected claims 1, 7 – 9 and 18 as allegedly anticipated by US Pat No. 5,702,280 to Liebke et al.. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Liebke shows a method of removing excess overlay coating from within cooling holes of aluminate coated gas turbine engine components.

With reference to the portions cited by the Examiner (col. 4, line 10 – col. 5, line 35) and other portions of Liebke (including col. 5, line 35 – col. 6, line 59), Liebke does relate to the removal of material using abrasive means. However, Liebke does not discuss any particular rate at which the material is removed, let alone altering the rate at which material is removed. More specifically, Liebke does not disclose or suggest the removal of material from a substrate “at a progressively decreasing rate” as set forth in independent claim 1 of the present application. The patent referenced in those portions (US Pat No. 5,125,191) likewise does not appear to teach or suggest changing the rate at

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which material is removed from a surface of a substrate. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the rejection be withdrawn.


For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that currently amended independent claim 1 and its respective dependent claims are allowable over the prior art of record.

Applicants petition for a three-month extension of time to file this response. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 21-0279 in the amount of \$1,020.00 for the petition fee.

Applicants believe that there are no other fees due for submitting this response. If so, please charge any additional fees to the above Deposit Account.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if there are any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



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